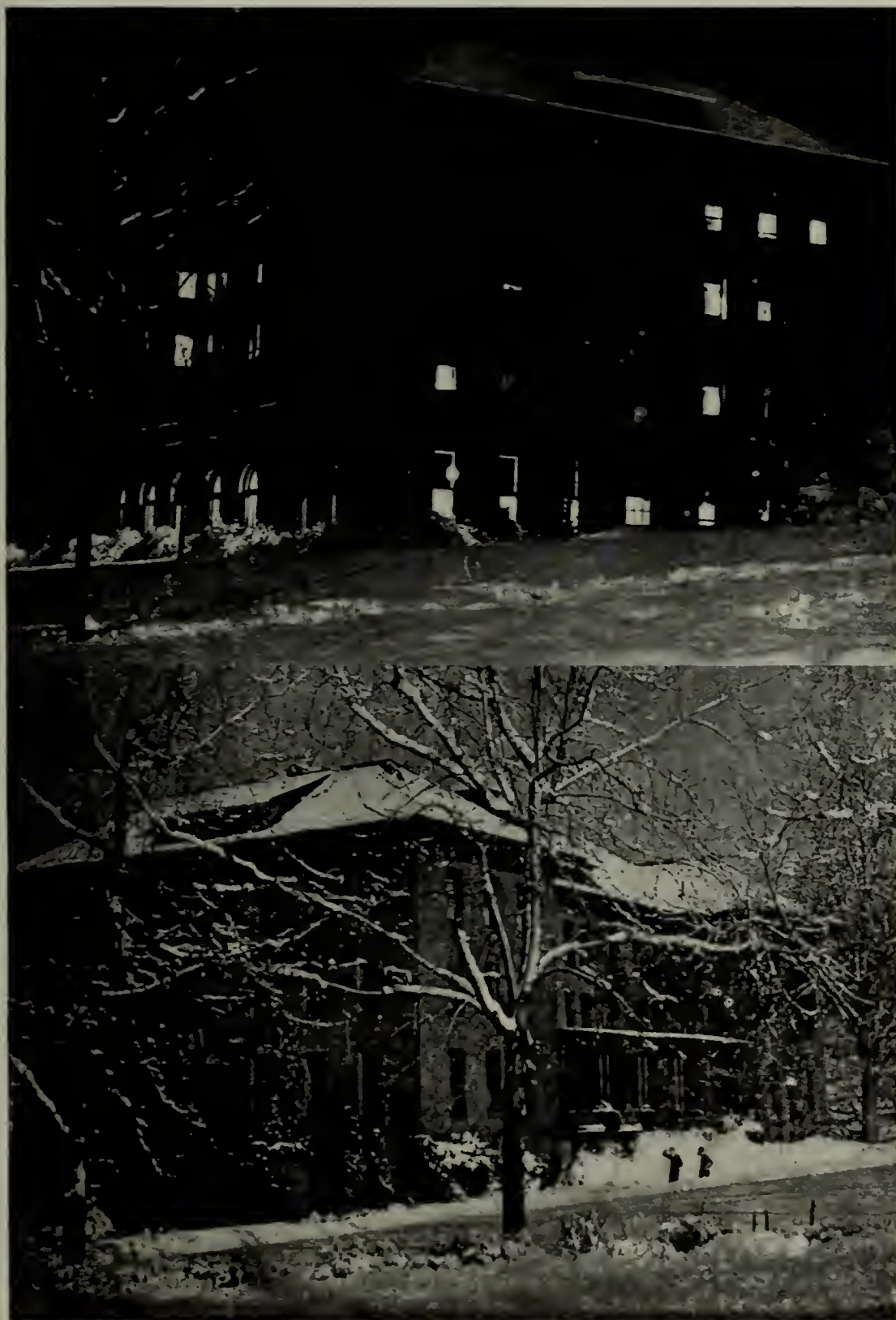


THE HICKORY STICK

VOLUME I NUMBER 3

FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH, 1936



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The HICKORY STICK

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Mary Murtagh Talented Pianist Delights Assembly

Selections from Liszt, Chopin, and Debussy Enliven Student's Assembly

Occasionally, into an ordinary existence, comes an experience as exquisite as a rare jewel — an experience which obscures failure, despair, pettiness, and proffers pure happiness. Such a thing occurs when Mary Murtagh played for us at the Tuesday morning assembly of March third.

Miss Murtagh, who is studying privately with Professor Haven of the Boston University College of music, displayed a finished technique, an interpretive depth, and a broad knowledge of the capacity of her instrument to the extent of humbling her audience even as she elevated it. At all times she subordinated her personality to the piano, not only in her manner but more especially in selecting compositions written by three men who made the greatest contributions to music written exclusively for the piano. Liszt, Debussy, and Chopin.

In the first number, an Impromptu by Chopin, the tones were at times blurred, not because of faulty technique but because of Miss Murtagh's limited experience with our particular instrument. Her increased confidence in the second number, Nocturne, made possible her sparkling interpretation of the Scherzo, with its arpeg-

gios and runs, its richness of tone, its delicacy of shading.

Miss Murtagh rendered "The Heather" in a way that gave full play to the phantasmal, fluid, indefinite melody so characteristic of the Impressionist, Debussy, and succeeded fully in painting the delicate coloring, the restraint that caused him to be known as the "Master of a style too fragile".

Franz Liszt, the greatest pianist who ever lived, wrote music intended to display the virtuosity of the player. It was fitting that an artist of Miss Murtagh's ability should have chosen two of his compositions for her last selections, the picturesque "Hungarian Rhapsody", and the luxuriant and dramatic "Pollanais in E Minor". The smooth transitions from shimmering nuances to the bold, dramatic coloring illustrated the artist's depth of grasp of the extravagant, introspective style of Liszt.

That which is said of Debussy's music may fittingly be applied to Miss Murtagh's playing. "It gave us wings to send us soaring up to heights to which we could not possibly have risen otherwise."

Pavlov Noble Prize Winner In Science, Dies

Ivan Pavlov, Russian scientist, is dead. The outstanding physiologist of our age, he contributed the theory of 'conditioned reflexes' to modern knowledge. He was one of the few noteworthy survivors of the imperial regime. He lived to be accepted as Soviet Russia's proudest scientific exhibit.

Pavlov was the one free citizen in present-day Russia. A Nobel prize winner under the late Tzar, he presided only last year at the session of the International Physiological Congress held in Leningrad.

The great Lenin recognized his genius, and permitted him boundless privilege. His tedious research continued even during the heat of the Revolution and its attending disorderer. Without question, his discoveries and conclusions profoundly influenced all scientific thought.

Panhellenic House Of N.Y. Sponsors Contest

The Panhellenic House Association of New York is sponsoring an essay contest on the subject, "Why I Should See New York." This contest is open to college and university students.

The essay may be based on New York's historical, architectural, commercial, shipping market or other interests.

Another inviting aspect of the contest is the prizes to be awarded. First prize: \$100.00 in cash, plus a week's stay and entertainment provided by the Beekman Tower Hotel, or transportation to and from New York plus a week's stay and entertainment. Second prize: \$25.00 plus a week's stay. Third prize: \$15.00 plus a week-end stay. In addition, fifteen honorable mention citations are to be awarded.

Papers will be judged by a group of distinguished men and women of unquestioned literary standing and accomplishment.

In submitting essays use plain white paper, size 8½ by 11 inches. Write on one side only in neat legible handwriting, or use the typewriter if possible. The requirement is not more than 1000 words and not less than 500.

Write your name, address, and college or university in the upper left-hand corner of each page and submit your essay to Essay Contest Committee, Beekman Tower, 3 Mitchell Place, New York City, before March 31, 1936.

Entry blanks may be secured from the editor.

Teacher's Oath Law Condemned By N.S.F.A.

"Delegates to two last N.S.F.A. annual congresses unanimously condemned so called loyalty oaths for teachers or students. Stop. Realizing that they have been and will be used to intimidate students and teachers and repress free speech thought and action violating fundamental principles of American Liberty as outlined in Bill of Rights Amendments to constitution, N.S.F.A. representing two-hundred forty thousand students unequivocally support repeal of Mass. Teachers Oath Law."

N. W. Coeds Frown On Bow Ties, Humming

Chicago, Feb. 18(AP) — Northwestern University co-eds, just to be making a list, jotted down today the things they don't like in men. Some of the things they frown on:

Earmuffs, fur coats, deep-toned shirts, conceit, malodorous cigars, oiled hair, or shirts; bow ties, stocking caps. Failure to rise when a lady enters.

They also considered it a sign of social failure to sit outside and honk the horn, and to hum while dancing. Swains also were warned that at Northwestern, famed in a college song for its pretty girls, that the pretty girls don't like men who are "just too smooth."

Unique Entertainment Planned By Mohawks

Another event in the near future is the Mohawk Entertainment which is scheduled for April 17. A committee is at work on the plans which promise something new in the line of entertainment at the college. The club will offer a series of acts including group dances, specialties, and other bits, intermingled with general dancing. The original plan was to put on a college review as is done in other colleges, but this was discarded in favor of the dance in which the student body as a whole could participate.

Under the direction of Miss Bolger and with the co-operation of some of her dance classes, many interesting groups have been arranged. Coming as it does the week after Lent, the affair offers an excellent outlet for the pent-up rhythm and emotions stilled since the Gav-Mohawk Formal.

Are The Freshmen Showing Us All Up?

The Freshman class is very proud to say that their Carnival Ball was a splendid success. Many compliments have been made to the class concerning the high standard which this ball set. A great deal of initiative and cleverness was shown by the decorating committee which transformed the library into a veritable 'winter wonderland'.

During the entertainment the class displayed its talent in the form of Miss Geraldine Lyons who tap-danced in a winter costume, and also musical numbers were given by Henry Lambert and James Baker accompanied by Miss Ellen Dormin on the piano.

Is it true that Freshman Grammar Masters outplayed the Senior P. A. men at the preliminary game the evening F.T.C. played R. I. College of Education—or is this just a rumor?

Upon request several class songs were submitted and the one suggested by Mary Chase was chosen as the most. Written for this song, and we hope to be able to sing them soon.

At our last class meeting, John Mitchell was chosen as representative on the assembly program committee with Ellen Dormin as temporary representative in case of his absence.

Orchestra Contributes To Appreciation Course

F.T.C. Orchestra Presents Haydn's "Surprise Symphony." The Teachers College orchestra under the direction of Miss Miriam Eldridge presented on March 2 in Christ Church two movements from the "Surprise Symphony" by Josef Haydn.

This contribution was part of the program in music appreciation in which Dean Marshall of the Boston University College of Music was principal speaker. At this gathering Dean Marshall spoke at length on music and musicians of the Classic Period. Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, and Handel with their compositions occupied a large part of his talk which he illustrated with victrola records and by playing on the piano.

The Andante and the Minuetto of the "Surprise Symphony" were excellently rendered by Miss Eldridge's musicians. In the Andante with its sudden "fortissimo" following the soothing crescendos and diminuendos of the violins the audience was somewhat startled but was reassured by the flow of musical lines filled with melodic and harmonic peace. This movement ended with the very soft staccato of reeds and strings blended in subtle harmony. The Minuetto impressed the listeners with its lifting joyfulness ending on a decisive major chord of happiness.

Sophomores Plan Their Annual Hop

The Sophomore class is planning a series of surprisingly stimulating assembly programs for the week of March 16. The Long Tuesday program will be a special treat to assembly-goers.

At a recent class meeting, Helen Paul was elected Sophomore representative to the assembly committee. Matthew Godeck was chosen as alternate.

The speech delivered by Leonard Nisula on assembly improvements was one of the most challenging to the students.

'K&I' Kansaniva did an outstanding piece of work in the Gaveleer Play.

We shall miss athletic 'Larry' Turner who has left college to join the navy.

The Sophomore Hop will definitely be held at the close of the school year.

Gav-Mohawk Formal Best Ever Produced

Once again the Gaveleers and Mohawks combined on Friday, March 20, to provide one of the most delightful formal parties of the current year.

Smooth, sophisticated dance tunes were offered by Fred Jolic, F.T.C.'s favorite band, from Worcester. The unique decorative arrangements which converted the library into a purely Irish atmosphere served to make the party that much more joyous for the friends and guests of the Gavs and Mohawks.

Patrons for the dance were: Mr. and Mrs. Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. MacLean, Mr. and Mrs. Weston, Dr. and Mrs. Herlihy, Mr. Hapgood, Miss Eldridge, and Miss Conlon.

Boston Literary Society Listens To Donald Lytle

Xanadu, exclusive Boston literary society, schedules Mr. Donald Lytle as guest speaker the fifteenth of March. Our news editor will discuss present-day American poetry, and read from his own writings.

Pressed for a few words on the subject announced, Mr. Lytle commented as follows:

To-day the sincere student places American poetry under close scrutiny. A period of revaluation is setting in. The many schools of expression present a chaotic enigma. The writer predicts the emergence of a truly national poetic form—strange in its simplicity and effectiveness.

It is understood Fitchburg will hear Mr. Lytle's message in the not too distant future.

Will Durant Flays N.E.A.

Speaking before the National Education Association in St. Louis, Mr. Will Durant, noted philosopher, accused the nation's schools of 'fragmentation.' This astute observer declares our educators have been so busy promoting intellect that growth of character has been neglected.

"The emphasis is too much on specialized training and too little on broad morality. We have been too interested in teaching the student knowledge and not enough interested in making a good man of him."

Why Student Assemblies

This is not an apology. A forum program of assemblies that can increase attendance twenty-five percent needs no apology. This is not a eulogy. Any program that does not offer an improvement over the old system should not be lauded. In the last analysis, it is the educational value of the assemblies that will overshadow the actual programs. Can we do it? — We are doing it! When the open-forum shattered our illustrations on assemblies, when Dr. Percival finished giving The Prof. Smells, and the obsolete equipment the gate, when the students finished rubbing the faculty and vice-versa, the students were given the opportunity of presenting their programs. Amateurish, yet; we agree we are novices at most of the procedures, but we are learning. Students have become assembly conscious. No longer is it an assembly by the administration. It is a program of three hundred students, all vitally interested and all eager to know how it came about. The faculty owes it to the program committee to go at least part way. We only want them to sing the hymns that the students waded through well.

Paris -- Culture and Art

Deep within the breast of every human there lodges something of the wanderer, a mysterious yet perceptible desire to throw off the yoke of stagnation, and to renew by physical and mental change the buoyancy of life. Particularly in the United States is this desire manifest until it seems that 'going abroad' has become one of the tribal attributes of the American people.

So great, indeed, has grown this yearly migration to European shores that there is developing slowly but surely a definite center for this annual wisdom of our people; for today this metropolis presents the most beguiling appearance in the modern world.

Into the building of this city human genius has poured its richest gifts. Through a history of tragic brilliance, it has risen slowly to the place of preeminence it now occupies. There we brought into communion with every order of character in every form of individuality. We can observe the panorama of life distributively, studying it from all sides, and thus secure

(Continued on page 10)

Fifty Out Of Three Hundred

Sixteen percent of our student body are finding it a privilege and a pleasure in being able to have a hand in the formulating of the "Hickory Stick". This figure places our rating two standard deviations below average on the Doc's famous normal curve. Are you satisfied with such a rating?

The staff finds not a task but an easy outlet of energy in writing and publishing our paper. Surely you of the other eighty-four percent are not unaware of the pure joy of completing a well written essay or editorial. The advantages of participating in this new activity cannot be lost to you. False modesty has no place in our set up. We as teachers must appreciate the value of writing ability. As intelligent students you should make the most of the opportunity presented to you by the "Hickory Stick". May we expect your contributions and your criticisms in future issues?

Our Physical Director N.Y. Track Official

On Washington's Birthday, Mr. Ralph Colson, our director of Physical Education, had the distinction of being the only official representing New England at the athletic meet held in New York to decide the National Schoolboy Championships of America. Mr. Colson officiated in the high-jumping and broad-jumping contests. In the evening he served in a similar capacity at the meet for The National Men's Championship of America.

Interesting Debates Due In Near Future

An invigorating public debate will be held in our March 24th Tuesday assembly. Speakers from Nichols College will oppose our team. Members of our team are L. Nisula, R. Copeland, F. Heins and P. O'Toole. The topic of debate may be "Socialized Medicine," "Capital Punishment," or "Youth Against War."

More club members are participating in formal debates. The return team to debate at Nichols is composed of M. Slatery, B. Leonard, P. Martilla, and M. Clark.

Don Fredric Says---

We do not criticize those who advocate world peace. They are feeling men. They see clearly the brute savagery of war, and lend all their strength to its abolition. No, far from it. In fact, we too hope to see the day when all men live together in understanding and friendliness. There is, however, one firmly-rooted obstacle to its realization: namely, man.

He must be changed. Since creation he has been a fighting animal. No instinct is deeper than that of struggle. In the earlier ages, he fought to gain for his loved ones land and material possessions. Today, thousands of years later, he still wages battle on the same pretext.

During the past two hundred years, man has worked resolutely and accomplished much. But, in the main, only in a material sense. His moral progress has not kept step with his advancement in the arts and sciences. Man is still greedy. Desire for power is the main cause of war. When you have eliminated this greedy drive from human nature, you will have no further need for peace conferences. Until that day comes, this earth will continue to see its richest blood spent in the acquisition of more power—whether in terms of land or its content.

Washingtons Feat Tied By Mr. Colson's Pretege

Josephine Lally, one of Gov. Curley's secretaries, recently threw a silver dollar across the Charles River near the Harvard Stadium. The river at that point is 270 feet wide. Miss Lally cleared it by 10 feet.

Mr. Colson has been coaching Miss Lally for the last five years. She now holds the New England championship in the baseball throwing with a record of 254 feet. Mr. Colson believes that Miss Lally will secure a place among the javelin throwers on the next Olympic team.

GIRLS HIKING SCHEDULE

March—

A hike along the Mohawk Trail.

April—

A hike to Cogshall Park (A lunch will

(Continued on page 10)

MUCH ADO

It becomes trite to say "this is your paper, do something for it." Before the time of the paper and while the elections were going on there was a good deal of enthusiasm for a "voice of the student organ." This may be the "small, still voice" so often mentioned in literature. As a matter of fact it is so small and so still that it is scarcely audible. Dr. Herlihy advances for one of the reasons why teachers as a class fail to produce worthwhile written material the fact that the pressure of work in the daily tasks of the classroom apparently inhibits the urge to write is inhibited by nothing more than downright laziness and procrastination.

A casual visitor to one of the many English classes, pausing for a moment to listen to the learned dissertations on style, the art of criticism, and what goes to make up good literature would expect to find in the school paper no less than several Dreisers, Fitzgeralds or Hawthorns. What happens to these classrooms orators after they leave the classroom? Where are the smoothflowing, well-turned phrases that fell so musically from their lips? Why is there no effort made to capture these masterly speeches that gain them A's from year to year? An hour or so with a clean sheet of white paper evidently leaves them yawning and ready for Cantor's or Powell's latest and a sheet of paper still very clean and very white.

Recall if you can those most excellent speeches that held us all spellbound during the campaign. Surely such wit, such learning, such gratifying command of the English language as was displayed at that time by both the successful and the unsuccessful candidates augured well for the heard from the candidates themselves impressed us. In the matter of experience there were several reporters, past editors, English stars of brilliance, whose work, we were assured, would make our paper one to be proud of. What bushel are they hiding their light under? And these are the small fry.

Out of the imposing array presented the school voted for what is honestly considered the best men and women. And what was the result? How much actual work has been done by the duly elected editors? One editor and one editor alone can use the excuse that his work does not have to do with the "words" in the paper. We

would like to hear something from the others. It is charming to hear these folk explain their tasks as those of organizers of materials submitted to them. But it filler from other students? In the Feb- does not hold water. Are we to be derived articles to the various departments, two rary issue one student contributed six of the benefits we might gain from their own work merely because they get space of his articles of such obvious worth that they made the editorial page-unsigned. "If this be treason — —"

Now we feel better. — — And we hope that people will realize that whenever they are criticized by us that our criticism is sincere and that we always try to make it constructive.

Miss Perry Fills In Admirably

Short stories: The cast of the Workshop production of *Cradle Song* completely rehearsed and loafing through a final week during which the finishing touches were being applied by the director, Miss Perry, a woman with an exceptional touch in dramatics. A rehearsal on Monday and another on Tuesday. Three more light rehearsals and then the play. But — on Wednesday the thing happened that every director dreams about. Without a word of warning the assembled cast was told on that night that the lead, the talented Verna Buckley, was in the Burbank with appendicitis. What to do? All the tickets sold, all arrangements complete — and no leading lady. Comes to do with the play took over the reins of directing, the previous director, Miss Perry stepped into the leading role, and in three days they gave one of the best performances ever shown in Fitchburg. Score another one for Miss Nixon.

MEDITATION

The moon trills unheard sonatas through the dusk,
My hoary breath weaves wreaths of prayer.
Below, virgin fields crouch 'mid bearded hills,
All screech silence
I bare my soul to God.

James Earley

Teachers Break Down And Voice Opinions

Question: "What type of student do you prefer?"

Mr. Randall:—"I like students who have a special interest in life, and who know what it is."

Miss McCarty:—"I like clear thinking students who are dependable, ready to take responsibility and who show initiative."

Mr. Smith:—"I like students who are orderly, and who are reliable, and who have a desire to get ahead. I desire students who are reliable, and who carry out their obligations with enthusiasm."

Mr. Purinton:—"I like pupils who are mechanically inclined for I have something in common with them. I look for punctuality and frankness in students."

Miss Lamprey:—"I like pupils who are artistically inclined."

Miss Conlon:—"We all enjoy the thoughtfully responsive student, and the one who is intelligently independent. The ideal student in a teachers college is one whose professional standards are high, and one for whom all class work is made more meaningful because of his understanding of youngsters and his vital interest in helping them to grow."

Mr. Carpenter:—"I like all kinds of pupils. The best student is the one who knows definitely what he is after, and who never loses sight of his goal."

Mr. Harrington:—"We teachers like all types of pupils, but we prefer the type that is eager to learn, in contrast to the type that is self-complacent and self-satisfied."

Dr. Percival:—"I like the pupils who can draw the normal curve, and especially the dull, rich, brunettes who are under-graduates. Oh, yes, these qualities of my favorite pupils decided by a toss of the coin!"

Miss McConnell:—"I like students with ability, and the willingness to use it."

Dr. Herlihy:—"The student that interests me the most is the one who has developed, or is developing the habit of working to capacity, and who is keeping sweet about it."

Miss Bradt:—"I prefer a student who has sufficient intellectual curiosity to motivate his own work."



By Jim Earley Box 386

After several weeks of training I am very ill and the pupils are healthier than ever. Week-ends I cut corners off circular lesson plans. The world would be beautiful if teachers ate more spinach and the pupils were made to realize that a hickory stick can be more than a school paper.

Ten Types— Frances Sherbourn: a laundered ruffle. Mr. Hapgood resembles Lunenburg's smiling police chief, Chet Page. The villain for a Western thriller: Al NeJame. Our own "Ring" (cute name?) Ladner sounds like Hollywood's Frank McHugh. Elaine Cleaves: timid simplicity. Squeak Miller reminds one of a person waiting for a fire cracker to explode. Sound resignation: the clerk at the Spa. George King resembles Spencer Tracy. Priscilla Griffin sounds like Helen Mack.

Pan Mail:— The mail box screeches that I have readers — and reactionists. They scratched their heads in puzzlement; some raised what was left of a plucked eye-brow; others just held nose and mouth and ran for air. Well, read one yourself.

I must say that the "Ash Tray" is ashy — If that's all you can find to fill up the pages you'd better quit — it doesn't make sense to me, but then — Some is O.K. — but, I don't know — once, someone told me you were brilliant. If you would like to answer send to Box —.

—No pleasure forthcoming to be awaited — Sorry — but it, does make me gasp for some fresh — cold air.

I shall always remember Long John Silver as he shook his wooden leg and shouted:

"Tis false, 'Tis false"

—I wonder if Mr. Harrington has a brother who teaches:

"I have no objection to anyone falling asleep as long as he keeps quiet."

A small town needed a substitute teacher. A local mule-driver who held a high school diploma was drafted into service. He did so well he was offered a regular position on the faculty. "No thanks", said he, "I'd a sight rather drive six mules in harness than forty in a classroom." . . . I notice "high pressure" Baressi and "leave early" Pepi are listed among the Goons . . . Larry Buttrick; the importance of being earnest.

Age is perhaps the only reason the upper classes command prestige in this school. The Winter Carnival Ball fittingly crowned a splendid week-end. From cello to cellophane the plebs executed a success. In the Dramatic Club offering their pantomime brought a tear of joy from the mechanically critical eye of Miss Nixon. Yes, as Dr. Dafoe said to the Dionne nurse; "we shall hear more from them"!

—Paleness of death:—Concerning that cadaver of the dispute about P.A. men's inferiority, let's mention it just once more everybody and then forget all about it. Like-wise for the song that goes in circles. The ash tray has received some garlic relative to the story about the insane asylum in the last issue. Maybe the yarn was in bad taste but it wasn't intended to be uncharitable. The inmates read our newspapers and certainly must laugh at the dollar throwing and beano so why not laugh at a few of their activities.

—Confucius says: — People who play with fire smell punk. . . . Observe your enemies for they find out your faults . . . Hospitality in its perfection is practiced only by the poor or there would be no poor . . . Base envy withers at another's joy and hates the excellence it cannot reach. . . . The wolf never says "baa" or "bah" unless it has designs on some sheep

—There is no law against it or Messrs. Hague and MacLean wouldn't be wearing that unmistakable mark of masculinity—the moustache. No other person on the entire campus wears one (intentionally) why not? Mine died in a recent sleet storm but it looked like a worn-out tooth-brush anyway To the students in wood shop. O men of magic, fascinated I watch you expertly manipulate the million gadgets, screened by a cloud of sawdust. The mountain moves and you bring forth a beautiful product. All I ever received was a lop-sided bread-board.

Plain Plagiarism:— The pure Socialist state does exist, but it isn't in Russia, it's a beehive. If there's one thing that hurts more than paying an income tax, it's not having to pay an income tax. A light-house tender heard a warning signal sound every thirty minutes for twenty years. One night while he was asleep it failed to sound. He awoke startled: "What was that?" Many of the arguments that the political speakers will advance will be sound-merely sound.

A noted Doctor says: The reason a young man's fancy turns to love in the Spring is due to an increase of raw vegetables in the diet. During the winter there is a deficiency of these and with the influx of more nutritious foods people naturally feel better. Even now some of the glances exchanged in our library and lobbies could be poured on waffles. The results of a radical change in the offerings of the dining hall are awful to contemplate.

SNOW MOODS

Quiet,
Soft, silken snow,
Descends like falling feathers
In a shadow.
Drifting
Aimlessly down
Sliding and sinking anon
To the ground.
Fierce,
Wind-driven snow,
Snarling like a lean grey wolf
In the dark.
Raging,
Swooping down,
Swirling and charging ever
To the ground.

Joseph Goon

Trials Of A Hitch Hicker

1. Pleading thumb indicates desire to travel up road on right. Driver noting this point to left and goes right. Result: Hitch-hiker left waiting.

2. Overworked thumb still on duty. Driver approaches, slows to a stop ten yards beyond H.H. and as latter runs to get in the car the driver "steps" on it. Result: H.H. still waiting. Highblood pressure beginning to make itself manifest.

3. Zeal of thumb is flagging. Sympathetic driver who doesn't stop goes by slowly enough for H.H. to note position of his thumb fingers closed, thumb pointed straight in the air. This is aided by suggestive upward movements. Result: High-blood pressure more evident, veins in forehead begin to swell.

4. Thumb is out of service. Left forefinger pressed into service. No result until a fellow hitch-hiker noting use of forefinger tries to speak deaf and dumb language with our patient (?) waiter. Result: Muttered execrations are heard and a well-placed propelling movement with the right foot aids the second H.H. down the road.

5. Driver stops. Borrows match to light cigar and waves goodbye with parting advice, "Everything comes to him who waits. He-he, Haw-haw." Result: H.H. throws "kelly" at fleeing car but misses and disposition is soured.

6. Driving maniac comes down road. Sees H.H. and proximity of nearby mud puddle. Dexterously strikes this spraying H.H. most effectively and speeds on. Result: H.H. colors atmosphere with blue sulphurous imprecations which issue in a torrent from between writhing lips.

7. Country pumpkin approaches H.H. and makes barbed comment about tramps and "no-goods" who bother drivers. Result: High-blood pressure demands action. Country bumpkin in hospital. Hitch-hiker in jail—six months— His poetic nature has given expression to the following treasure:

A man who would a-hiking go
Thoughts he could hitch rides.
His thumb he used till sore and lame
It could no longer rise.
Not daunted nor quelled, this venturesome soul
His left forefinger he did uphold.
With what result? My friends!
My friends!

Hell's Half Acre A Natural Phenomenon

In the mountains near Hot Springs, Ark., is a queer bowl, or lake, of small rocks which is known in the section as "Hell's Half Acre".

We are not accustomed to think of rocks as fluid though coal has been crushed into small particles which flow, and quick-sands separate readily to permit the passage of a heavy body and fill in and smooth themselves out when a hole has been dug in them.

The rocks of Hell's Half Acre are quite sizable and in no way comparable to the grains of crushed coal or quick sand, yet in a way they act like them. Groups of visitors often amuse themselves by digging the rock out until they have made a large hole, either in an effort to reach bottom or to uncover pirate's gold supposed to be hidden in the bowl. The mysterious thing is that, upon returning to the patch a few days later, the visitors always find that the hole they have sunk with so much exertion has filled in and in the rocks heap which they piled up have smoothed out, leaving the surface of the odd formation just as it was before they ruffled it.

Geologists explain that the formation was caused by a pressure fold which broke up a mass of metamorphic rock, Ouachita stone. Some people have thought that the patch was the debris of an outflow from an old volcano, but this is not accepted by the scientists. However, no scientific explanation has been advanced which will satisfy the natives of the section.

Though Hell's Half Acre lies in the midst of a section noted as having the second greatest diversity of vegetation in the country, it is almost barren. Only a few hardy lichen have managed to attach themselves to the stones here and there.

Another curious feature is the echo effects. If four or five people are scrambling over the formation, they can scarcely hear each other's voices at a distance of 10 feet, because their footfalls send countless echoes running in every direction through the loose rocks, producing a bedlam of noises.

Prospectors have constantly been lured by the mystery of the spot. The writer,

If you the urge to travel have,
Weak not to do it by your hand;
Lest, like myself, in misery here
You spend six months of the travelling year.

who is preparing an article on the rock patch for the American Guide, the Government's forthcoming 5-volume travel handbook, found that at the mere mention of Hell's Half Acre, the eyes of most any old miner of the section will gleam and he will begin to mutter about "gold," "Spanish digging's," "Mexican jewels," and the "Lost Louisiana Mine." The precious metals have never been found in paying quantities in the Hot Springs area, however, though small pockets of extraordinary richness have been uncovered. The region, indeed, is a "land of lost hope" for miners, and everywhere one finds souvenirs of vanished dreams in the form of abandoned mine shafts.

According to the tradition, there was once an old miner and gambler who used to disappear into the hills near the rock patch whenever he had been cleaned out and returned to town a few days later with a buskin of gold. He has played his last game and nobody knows where he found his stakes. Gone, too, is a Hot Springs doctor who thought he had located the wall of the "Lost Louisiana Mine" and tried to sink a shaft into Hell's Half Acre until a fellow townsman got out an injunction to stop him from destroying a natural phenomenon. The last of the timber which the doctor used for shoring is rotting at the patch, and the mine is still "lost."

Ho--Hum

If this were then, and then were now
my dear,

This year the last and next a year ago
We might be fast enamoured yet. I fear
That Time goes first too fast and then
too slow.

Those moments that we knew all glad-
some joy

Were labeled on the sheet of Time as
weeks.

Those years it seemed we quarrelled did
enjoy

The name of hours. Each raptured lover
seeks

To halt or speed the gait of Time. And
Time,

A wily maniac, does drag along.

Or headlong rush through days. There is
no rhyme

Nor reason to his pace except to wrong

The course of Love. We both did hate
Time's lie—

Indifferent now we watch it straggle by.

—G. King

Inter-mural Champions



Back row, left to right: E. Sculley, F. Lovell, A. Waris, M. Mologhan, H. McCauliff, A. Algeo.

Front row, left to right: R. Copeland, E. Buckingham, A. Leighton, A. Salo, K. Disken, M. Disken, E. Critchley.

Black Team Wins Basketball Contest

The Black team is the champion team of the seven game round-robin tournament in basketball. The two Diskens, Copeland, and Leighton certainly piled up the scores for their team. The guards came out on top with Salo, Critchley and Buckingham putting up a strong fight and keeping their opponents well under control.

The White team threatened the Blacks throughout the tournament. When the final game was to be played each team had three games to their credit. Fortunately for the Blacks, the score 28-21, made them the victors. The Orange put up an excellent fight but proved to be not quite strong enough to overcome her opponents. For the three previous years the Orange team has won the basketball title, and we feel sure that they will comeback again with flying colors.

Catherine Disken was high scorer for the Black team, having made 12 points. Rosanna LaCroix was high scorer for the White team with a score of 9.

Orange Six Faces A Serious Threat

Volleyball will be the reigning sport during March. Basketball and soccer have their place, but when Volleyball comes the girls rally to this sport. Especially do we have a great many who have not participated in any other sport. To be well-played, this game requires skill and co-operation.

Last year we had first and second Orange and Black Varsity teams, and those girls made the dust fly in their scuffle for the winning points. The victorious first and second Orange teams were supported by such players as Lucille Harrington, Esther Evans, Dorothy Harris, Ethel Critchley, Alice Lee, Rosanna LaCroix, Hilda Duker, and Marion Burwick. This season we have the new White team. It has many challenging new members in addition to many commendable veteran players.

The presence of a new team should mean that more girls will be able to play on the varsity teams. Therefore, we are confident of having a good representation from all three teams. The Orange team will be there with flying colors to de-

(Continued on page 11)

Inter-Mural Basketball All-Star Teams Selected

Following the idea of all the papers, we have picked an All-Star Basketball team from the Inter-Mural Teams. The players were selected by the Sports Department for their general all around ability and not alone for their scoring ability. To some this may not seem the best team, but we feel that the selections are justified.

Position	First Team	Second Team
R.F.	Lupien	McCaffrey
L.F.	Busby	Minor
C.	Foye	Lacouture
L.G.	Collard	Godek
R.G.	Pepi	Bauer

We had a wide field of talent to choose from and we were hard pressed for a time to select the above teams. We finally decided that these were the best we had seen in play and they deserved the honor that this selection may bring. May this ALL-STAR SELECTION become a permanent affair at the College.

Hockey Team Completes Encouraging Ice Season

The hockey team closed its season Feb. 17, by defeating Becker Business College 10-2. This was the second defeat our team had handed the business men.

Coach McNeil had more than his share of tough luck this season. His team lost four of the six games played, because of poor ice conditions, inexperienced players, managerial troubles, and injuries to the players. Although he had all this tough luck, Don has built a team at the expense of a few defeats out of under-graduates, who should go places next year.

Varsity men that will graduate this year are Capt. Bill Purcell, Goalie; and Marsh Knowlton, Defense. The other members of the Varsity are: Hollis Moore and Bob Norton, Juniors; Ernest Savoy, Leonard Saviango, Matty Godek, and Paul Waring, Sophomores; Fred Bauer, John Gearan, Chet Bercume, Eddie O'Sheasy, and Don Creed, Freshman.

*Boston College 19	F.T.C. 0
*Becker College 0	F.T.C. 8
*Middlebury College 11	F.T.C. 0
St. Anselms College 8	F.T.C. 0
Lawrence Academy 4	F.T.C. 1
Becker College 2	F.T.C. 10
*Games Away	

The Weeping Room Where Coaches Meet

Why is this room weeping? It is weeping because of the many discouragements and heartbreaks that it has seen. You may think that the life of a coach is all flow-



ers but this is not so as the weeping room has so often discovered. Even though a coach may have a undefeated season, a number of stars, and a large attendance at the games he also has this worries. He has managerial troubles, injuries, poor weather, financial problems, and lack of varsity material.

May we introduce the members of the Weeping Room for 1935 and 1936. On the right we have "Doc" Johnson, the coach of tennis, "Doc", what a future, the worst has yet to come! Next we have Lahtinen, the head man of basketball. My! but "Lat" looks depressed and why shouldn't he, think of the troubles that he has had this season. Now look whom we have. "Chickie" seems to be pleased, mabe he figures that everything is in the bag for the baseball team this year. On "Chicks" right we see Mentor Mc Neil. Be careful, Don, those lovely fingernails won't last long doing that. Poor Don looks awfully mad, maybe the hose is frozen. Don't loose heart, Don, you have great possibilities for next season. Thomas Spring, the Dean of soccer, must have a damp season. Last but not least is our Athletic Director, Mr. Ralph Colson. Mr. Colson is smiling because the coaches cannot pass the buck to him.

Evans and LaCroix Badminton Winners

The badminton season came to an end with the conclusion of the Elimination Doubles Tournament in which Esther Evans and Rosana LaCroix were the winners.

These two girls proved their ability in
(Continued on page 10)

Sports Chatter

Annual Gav.-Mohawk game took place on March 2. Mohawks a poor second. Now that Hockey is over, all are looking to a brighter season next year. Congrats to the new manager, Murphy. Best of luck, Murph.

As long as bouquets are in order here's one for Miner, the basketball manager.

It looks as though we might eventually have a track team. The relay team, Lacouture, Owens, Rooney, and Langevin received medals for their victory over Rhode Island at the K. of C. games. We understand that the school is receiving new track equipment in the near future. Why speak of a track team eventually; Why not now.

Gym classes are getting rather strenuous these days, although setting-up exercises are not such a bad idea. Even the physical director can take it and he needs it!

Intra-mural basketball contests aroused a good deal of interest. Why can't we get this interest for our varsity.

It won't be long now. Baseball is in the offing. Coach Andrews tells us that the teams prospects are excellent. Milton Jeffrey will lead the team this season on the field.

Doc Johnson can hardly wait for the day that the ground dries up enough to permit his tennis candidates to get out and bat the balls around.

Junior Grammar Masters Win Hoop Championship

The Junior Grammar masters defeated the Soph. P.A. basketball team 37-25 for the second time this season. This game won for the Juniors the Intra-mural championship for the second consecutive time. It was a close contest until the third period, when Paul Foye showed his wares, going on a scoring spree for 15 points. Mentor Joe (one H) Mahoney should be very proud of his quintet for the progress his team has shown since the first of the season.

In the preliminary game the Fresh. Grammar Masters nosed out the Soph. Grammar Masters 31-29 after three overtime periods. Lupien and Bauer were the outstanding performers for the Fresh. Godek was the high scorer for the Soph.

Basketball Summarized By The Sports Writer

Winning seven and losing six of its games, our quintet, though unable to hang up a perfect record (which fact must be unbearable to the lovers of victory virtue), gave us plenty of thrills and enjoyment.

Five wins were scored on our local court, to which many students, desirous of lending cheer and song to encourage the best of effort, flocked game after game. Filling the bleachers, erected and razed periodically by NYA perspiration, also periodic, the loyal students, if the strange sounds issuing from well-meaning throats are indicators of loyalty, saw their team trip Salem T.C. by a single point; shade Keene Normal 39-32; avenge an earlier defeat by Assumption College; outlast the Fitchburg Alumni; bow grudgingly to a one-man team from Manchester, N. H.; fall before a too-well supported Bridgewater five (the Armory saw a snappier drill than ever before); and outclass Rhode Island's College of Education. On the home floor: won 5 and lost 2.

In games away, the ratio was 2-4. At Worcester the teachers dropped a close one to Assumption. They were two points behind Cushing Academy at the gun; failed to take St. Anselms by seventeen points; coasted by College of Ed. in R.I. were on the short end of a two point difference with New Britain T. C. in Conn; and let Hyannis T. C. down easy to close a hectic but not unsuccessful season.

After seeing the team perform as outlined above and comparing its deeds with the success forecast earlier, the writer sees no call or retraction of: "the team has the looks and the goods." Many senior players, Lahtinen and Andrews outstanding, bow out in June. Lots of luck to a great bunch of fellows.

Total Points For Games 1935-1936
Lahtinen 131, Andrews 119, Hackala 30, Turner 26, Daniels 25, Spring 22, Creamer 20, Mahoney 15, Hastings 15, McDowell 7, Nauminick 4, Jeffrey 2.

COMING EVENTS

April 17: Mohawk Entertainment
April 24: Senior Promenade
April 24: Relay Team leaves for Penna. Relays
April 25-May 4: Vacation

THE LUNACY TEST

Judge: "On what grounds do you ask for a divorce?"

Wife: "Insanity, your honor. I put crackers in his bed and he ate them."

Judge: "Is that all?"

Wife: "No, your honor. After he had eaten the crackers, he wanted to know who stole his soup."

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—Student Leader

EVANS AND LACROIX WINNERS

(Continued from page 9)

badminton by defeating Mary Hanifan and Dot Dolan in one of the best matches of the tournament. In fact, the sides were so evenly matched that an overtime period was necessary.

However, we regret to say that our worthy champions cannot yet be deemed worthy of their title, since we heard that they went down in defeat in a very exciting match against none other than Miss Bolger and Miss Stafford.

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All In A Day

Feb. 21: Arrived at school and succeeded in getting to first class at 9:10. Instructor glared at me which made me remark inwardly as to the inconsiderateness of people. After all, I have only been late ten times this semester. Balanced myself with nicety on board in subway and escaped with wet ankles, only. Efforts to sing at assembly of absolutely no avail as tenor who sat next to me possessed a voice singular like that of a sick bull, and did his best to exercise his vocal organs. Had assignment ready for next class for first time this year and instructor forgot to collect it, which made me resolve to avoid over-exertion in the future. While walking to my third class on the top floor gave serious thought to the problem, "What will be said on the Final Judgment day concerning energy wasted climbing stairs of F.T.C.?" Picture of administration condemned to an atonement of stair climbing gave me food for laughter.

Was mildly surprised to find that marks were in the box. Joined 299 other patient students to await envelope. Was interested to note the happy, smiling faces about me. Every one agreed that fairness was shown to all; in fact, many who milled about me felt that "marking system" and "justice" were synonymous. One student ventured to say that the marking system at F. T. C. was a racket. It was only through the forceful intervention of a plumber who was needlessly examining our excellent plumbing system that the much aroused students were persuaded to release the offender. Entire student body joined in one accord and sent a rousing cheer of appreciation, which somehow escaped right through the crack in the ceiling and dreadfully upset the training school pupils, causing them to deviate from their usual habits of good behavior and indulge in such forms of self-expression as slugging, yowling, and wrestling, which activities, I remarked to myself, are very familiar to those who have been in training.

The coming Prom filled many a heart with anticipatory joy. Observed that every one was going with the him or her, he or she wanted to. So many coy maidens flitting hither and yon, and so many manly men "trucking" in impatience for the evening's revel quite wore me out; so, I took the early bus home. Shock of my arrival caused my mother to be temporarily indisposed. Statement that I was going to

bed immediately so unnerved her that she swooned. Conscience stricken, I saw the folly of believing "Early to bed early to rise" and resolved to continue my studies of astronomy.

GREAT LITERATURE

Theme — Time — Place —

Universal is the term

Which best fits these words.

What does it convey to me? Only God
Knows

Sometimes, but I must answer —

Must answer quickly, she's looking my way;

Is there character growth? Oh, yes!

Because I read only the best.

And the plot, dear me, is not important
But lends that tinge of atmosphere.

—And these, dear friend, who bears with me

Of Great Literature, makes up the history.

G. Langevin

HIKING SCHEDULE

(Continued from page 4)

be taken.)

May—

A hike to Whalom Park (A lunch will either be taken or bought there.

June—

An all day hike (The destination of this hike has not yet been determined.)

As yet, no definite dates have been decided upon. As they are determined the dates will be posted on the bulletin board.

PARIS-- CULTURE and ART

(Continued from page 4)

ing a more definite comprehension of humanity in general, and the French people in particular.

Paris leads the world in the cultural arts. Her educational institutions are the foster-parents of the intelligencia of our day. Her salons are, without question, the fecund scenes of the most remarkable gatherings known in our era. Finally, her Latin quarter is harborer of the striking possibilities of a gathering tomorrow.

In all, Paris is synonymous with life, life resplendent in misery, happiness, poverty, wealth, mediocrity, and greatness. No small wonder Americans migrate to Paris each summer.

Widow's Mite

The Capitol of the United States does not stand on the historical "The Widow's Mite".

There was a Widow's Mite, however—possibly there were two parcels of Washington land which bore that queer designation. One may have existed in fancy only.

The Legend of the Widow's Mite has been discovered by writers of the American Guide, the Government's forthcoming 5-volume travel handbook, while preparing articles on the scenic, historic, and other features of the District of Columbia.

Among the white captives of Chief Mannacasset, of the Anacostia tribe—the tribe which gave its name to the river flowing through the eastern edge of what is now the district of Columbia—was a young mother who bore in her arms her little daughter, Gwawa. The Chief fell in love with her, but she found no place in her heart for the red man. Spurned in his plea that the English woman become his sqaw-bride, the Chief determined that no other man should have her.

In the territory over which he ruled, grew an oak tree of great size which was a land-mark known far and wide. Mannacasset decreed that she should occupy a hut under this tree and that she must not stray beyond the shade of its spreading limbs on pain of death.

For many years, she occupied this hut with her daughter and, when the Chief Mannacasset went to the "Happy Hunting Ground", the widow had become so much attached to her prison that she refused to abandon it. It is told that the Maryland Legislature gave the widow a tract of 17½ acres around her oak in appreciation of her sufferings. The widow is supposed to have willed her Mite to Gwawa with a special admonition that she care for the splendid oak tree in memory of the protection which it had afforded her and her child. The legend declares that the United States Government sought to purchase the property as the site of the Capitol, and that its overtures were rejected by the widow's dutiful descendents.

Just where the oak stood—if it stood anywhere—is a matter of conjecture, but a 600-acre tract, officially known as "The Widow's Mite", begins at Twenty-fourth and E Street, N. W., north of the Naval Hospital, and extends through Washington

to Rock Creek Park.

That the "widow's oak" was popular with the forefathers is evidence by another story which uses its shade as protection for the negotiations supposed to have been carried on by George Washington with the Indians in 1791 for the purchase of the land now occupied by the District of Columbia. However, Washington made no treaty with the Indians for this purchase. The negotiations were with white land-owners and the agreement was arrived at—not out of doors under an oak—but after a discussion around the hospitable board of Suter's Tavern in Georgetown.

Commuter's Utopia, or, How We Wish It Was

Driver calls at your door:

"Is it bad driving?"

"Yes, but I have chains on and extra ones in the back of the car."

"Brr! It's chilly."

"Turn on that new heater. You'll be warm as toast."

"I think that that patrolman is whistling for us to stop."

"Yes, I know he is. I'm doing 60."

"What's the rush?"

Patrolman walks over:

"We're hurrying to make our first class on time."

"Oh, I see. I'm sorry I delayed you. Step along and if anyone stops you tell them you have Mike Reidy's permission to speed."

"Thanks, Mike. So-long."

"We are late. It's five after nine. I've got so- and- so who always gets angry when anyone is late. Here he comes now. He must be looking for me."

"Good morning, Mr. You must be rather cold after your ride up so I've arranged to have coffee and buns served in a few minutes to the commuters. Oh, by the way, you got "A" on your final exam of last semester—Hey! What's the matter with him."

VOLLEYBALL ARRIVES

(Continued from page 8)

fend their last years title, while it is certain that the Black and White teams will be there to regain the title.

As quoted from the coach, Dorothy Harris, "Get behind your team. Spirit and enthusiasm means an interesting season and one worth remembering."

—It seems that one of the fresher Freshmen was sorely in need of a date to something or other, so what does he do but call up the wench with whom he is more than friends. With a determined throb in his voice he wraps a hand around the nearest telephone and ensues himself in conversation:

"Hello Mary Jane, watcha doin Saturday night?"

"I gotta date."

"Auna Saturday after that?"

"I gotta date."

"Auna ntx' Saturday?"

"Gotta date."

"Good gawd, woman, doncha ever take a bath?"

—Humbug.

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Exchange and Alumnae

ALUMNI

In the past little has been done to bring the alumni in closer acquaintance with the students. At present the alumni have, after a little "motivation," consented to contribute such articles to our publication as will benefit us as prospective teachers. Suggestions, ideas, and advice will be welcomed. We feel certain that our older brothers and sisters can, and will, guide us as to an activity worthy of their support.

Help us! We need you!

ALUMNUS

A. Arthur Shephardson
Ferry School
Shelton, Conn.
Quote:

I continued my studies after leaving Fitchburg Normal and received a degree at New York University last June, nevertheless the old school at Fitchburg comes first in my affections. Just now, however, I'm rather busy with play rehearsals and an extension course in Education and I'm afraid I couldn't turn out a satisfactory piece of journalism for you. I will keep the subject in mind though and if any ideas pop into my mind I'll try to shape them into something worthwhile for "our" publication.

"I wish you would have the business manager place my name on the mailing list of 'The Hickory Stick' (What an appropriate name; it recalls to my mind some old-time teachers at F.N.S. who knew how to use one!) and I will be glad to mail him a check for a year's subscription."

Thank you Mr. Shephardson. The type of spirit you display convinces us that support from the alumni is forthcoming.

GRADUATE SCHOOLS

As a member of the class of 1934 who has done graduate work, may I present my impressions to the members of the class of 1936 relative to the continuance of their studies in the future.

1. Your first year of teaching is without doubt the most important point in your career. The reputation you

make is a lasting one. Consequently devote your time and energy unsparingly towards making this year a big success.

2. When you are financially prepared select one of the best universities in the country at which to study.
3. Seek advice from experienced persons before you decide what your major field of study is to be.
4. Do not try to commute to graduate classes during the school year. The great amount of preparation needed for these classes must come out of the time which you should be devoting to your job. Go to summer school.
5. "A line" will not give you a graduate degree. You have to study if you hope to get all A's and B's.
6. If you contemplate getting a Master's degree do not wait too long after your graduation. The longer you wait the less desire you have to further your studies.

—J. J. Glennon
Lyman School
Westboro, Mass.

WAIL OF A GOOD BOY

My parents told me not to smoke,
I don't.
Nor listen to a naughty joke,
I don't.
They told me it was wrong to wink
At pretty girls; or even think
Of intoxicating drink;
I don't.
To dance or flirt is very wrong;
I don't.
In fact, I don't know how it's done;
I don't.
I kiss no girls, not even one,
In fact, I don't know how it's done
You wouldn't think I'd have much fun;
I don't.

—The Pup.

Abe Beleson lost ten pounds the other night when he dreamed that someone stood over him and said, "Give to me the shekels."

OUR money never stays with us long enough to take root much less become an evil.

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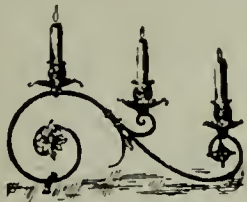
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THE SAXIFRAGE

1936 YEARBOOK

ATTENTION!

Students and Faculty

Volume XIV of the annual publication of the Senior Class of the Fitchburg State Teachers College will be distributed May 15th at the SAXIFRAGE DANCE. To reserve your copy please enclose one dollar (\$1.) as a deposit in an envelope and return to Angelo Barressi, Ass't. Business Manager (P.O. Box 520). The price has been set at \$3.25 and from every indication will not exceed that figure. Balance may be paid in full or in installments of \$1.00.

The 1936 yearbook will be larger, more attractively bound, and "dressier". A generous portion of the book has been allotted to underclassmen. Sign your pledge immediately.



The SAXIFRAGE STAFF

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